## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT STATE OF COLORADO DOMINGUEZ-ESCALANTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY COUNCIL

## **CHARTER**

- 1. **COMMITTEE'S OFFICIAL DESIGNATION:** Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area Advisory Council (Council).
- 2. AUTHORITY: The Council is established under the authority of Title II, Subtitle E— "Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area" of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L.111-11). The Council shall be subject to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (43 U.S.C. § 1701 et seq.) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App.
- 3. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES: The Council will serve in an advisory capacity through the Designated Federal Officer concerning the preparation and implementation of the Dominguez-Escalante NCA Resource Management Plan, as described under the authority cited in paragraph 2.
- **4. DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:** Council duties and responsibilities are generally to:
  - a. Advise the Secretary with respect to the preparation and implementation of the Resource Management Plan. This may require the Council, at the direction of the DFO, to:
    - (i) gather and analyze information, conduct studies and field examinations, receive public comments, and provide advice on the issues presented;
    - use published peer-reviewed science, existing management plans, and other tools to formulate recommendations regarding approaches to management of lands within the NCA; and
    - (iii) formulate recommendations on cooperative programs and incentives for landscape management that meet human needs and maintain and improve the ecological and economic integrity of the NCA.
  - b. Except for purposes of long-range planning and the establishment of resource management priorities, the Council shall not provide advice on the allocation and expenditure of Federal funds or on personnel actions.
- 5. AGENCY OR OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COUNCIL REPORTS: The Council provides representative counsel and advice to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) through the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Designated Federal Officer (DFO).

- **6. SUPPORT:** Administrative support and funding for activities of the Council will be provided by the Bureau of Land Management, Office of the DFO.
- 7. **ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS AND STAFF YEARS:** Activities of the Committee will require an estimated \$15,000, which includes 0.2 years or 2.4 months of Federal staff support.
- 8. **DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER:** The Council reports to the Secretary through the DFO. The DFO is the National Conservation Area (NCA) Manager. The DFO or the DFO designee or alternate DFO(s) will approve of and call all Council and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Council and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when the elected Chair is unavailable.
- 9. ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS: The Council will meet approximately one to four times annually. Additional meetings may be called by the DFO.
- **10. DURATION:** Although the charter is current for only 2 years, the period of time necessary for the Committee to carry out its purposes is continuing.
- 11. **TERMINATION:** The Council Charter will expire 2 years from the date it is filed, unless, prior to that date, it is renewed by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of Section 14(b) of FACA. The Council shall not meet or perform any functions without a valid charter.

The Council shall terminate 1 year from the date on which the Resource Management Plan is adopted by the Secretary.

## 12. MEMBERSHIP AND DESIGNATION:

- a. The 10 Council members appointed by the Secretary shall include:
  - (i) one member appointed after considering the recommendations of the Mesa County Commission;
  - (ii) one member appointed after considering the recommendations of the Montrose County Commission;
  - (iii) one member appointed after considering the recommendations of the Delta County Commission;
  - (iv) one member appointed after considering the recommendations of the permittees holding grazing allotments within the NCA; and

- (v) six members that reside in, or within reasonable proximity to, the following counties in the state of Colorado: Mesa, Delta, or Montrose. Their backgrounds should reflect:
  - (I) the purposes for which the NCA was established; and
  - (II) the interests of the stakeholders affected by the planning and management of the NCA.
- b. As specified in P.L. 111-11 (Title II, Subtitle E), the Secretary will ensure that the membership of the Council is fairly balanced in terms of the points of view represented and the functions performed.
- 13. ETHICS RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS: No Council or subcommittee member shall participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest. As provided in 43 CFR 1784.2-2, members of the Council shall be required to disclose their direct or indirect interest in leases, licenses, permits, contracts, or claims that involve lands or resources administered by the BLM, or in any litigation related thereto.
- 14. SUBCOMMITTEES: Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed to provide input necessary to the successful functioning of the Council. Input by subcommittees will be presented directly to the parent Council for its deliberation and consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the agency.
- **15. RECORDKEEPING:** The records of the Council, formal and informal subcommittees, or other subgroups of the Council shall be handled in accordance with the General Record Schedule 26, Item 2, or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

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Secretary of the Interior		Date
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Date Charter Filed